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APPL. NO. 10/038,521  
AMDT. DATED May 16, 2005  
REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION OF February 23, 2005

ATTY DOCKET NO. 486.1001

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Re: Application of: David L. Rhodes  
Serial No.: 09/726,087  
Filed: November 29, 2000  
For: **COLLABORATIVE HOST MASQUERADING  
SYSTEM**

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**RESPONSE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexander, VA 22313-1450

May 16, 2005

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated February 23, 2005 in which the Examiner maintained her prior rejection of claims 1-16, 26-28, 30-56, 64 and 66-75 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,781,550 to Templin, et al. ('550 patent). The Examiner has also maintained her prior rejection of claims 17-23, 29, 57-63 and 65 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over the '550 patent, as applied to claims 1-16, 26-28, 30-56, 64 and 66-75, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,774,660 to Brendel ('660 patent), which is relied upon only for its purported disclosure of "load balancing" and "network congestion" based action.

Initially, the applicants would like to thank the Examiner for granting the undersigned attorney and the inventor, David Rhodes, a telephone interview on April 28, 2005. During the interview, applicants discussed the Examiner's rejection of the claims, and, in particular, the Examiner's assertion, in the February 23, 2005 Office Action that "Templin does disclose a collaborating host that makes the destination host believe the data is from the source host".

As discussed during the interview, claims 1 and 53, the only independent claims in the

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